



Recycle This! Newsletter

Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * December 2000

Maine Recycles Week 2000 Reaches Double the Participation Levels of 1999!



Maine Recycles Week (MRW) 2000 was held during the week of November 8-15 in conjunction with America Recycles Day (ARD), a national campaign to promote recycling and the purchase of recycled content products. Maine municipalities, schools, and businesses were encouraged to participate in MRW by celebrating or promoting recycling and/or buying recycled.

Pledge Contests

National Contest

As part of ARD, people all over the country were asked to make a pledge to: increase recycling efforts at home and at work, buy more products with recycled content, and/or participate in any other recycling related activity. By filling out these pledge cards, residents nationwide entered themselves into a national drawing.

The national drawing will be held on December 15, 2000. Prizes include the American Green Dream House, a new home made from recycled content and environmentally friendly materials, and the Youth Prize, a 2-night trip for four to Disney World.

State Contest

In addition to the national contest, many states, including Maine, held their own drawings to encourage increased pledging. SPO received

2218 pledge cards from all over the state, including electronic pledges. On November 21, the MRW Steering Committee randomly drew the names of 5 prize winners, listed below:

- *Grand Prize, LL Bean Backwoods Lodge Tent:* Micky McNeal of Washburn
- *4 Tickets to Boston Bruins:* Gilman Pelletier of Grand Isle
- *4 Tickets to Portland Pirates:* Brenda Masse of Brunswick
- *4 Tickets to Portland Sea Dogs:* Deborah Johnson of Augusta
- *4 Tickets to Boston Red Sox:* Peter Marshall of Dover-Foxcroft

School Prize Contests

Schools that participated in MRW 2000 were eligible for a variety of prizes (listed below). The top 3 participating schools, determined by the Steering Committee, were each awarded \$500 prizes. Remaining schools were entered in a random

drawing. Winners are listed below.

\$500 Cash Prize Winners: Jay Middle School, Wayne Elementary School, Zippel Elementary School (Presque Isle)

\$100 Cash Prize Winners: Anderson School (Belfast), Bowdoinham Central School, Loranger Middle School (Old Orchard Beach), Readfield Elementary School, Van Buren District Secondary School

Chewonki Educational Program Winners: Bristol Consolidated School, Embden Elementary School, Harpswell Islands School, Katahdin High School

In addition, SPO received nearly 1000 entries in the MRW 2000 Poster Contest. The Steering Committee selected 12 entries to be included in a 2001 recycling calendar, which will be distributed statewide prior to Christmas. Look for your copy in the mail!



Maine Recycles Week 2000 SUMMARY

Pledges: 2218 (up from 1864 in 1999)

Participating Schools: 50 (up from 23 in 1999)

Municipal Events: 50 (up from 14 in 1999)

Business Events: 11 (up from 3 in 1999)



For a complete list of MRW 2000 Events, please visit the Maine Recycles Week web site at www.recyclemaine.com



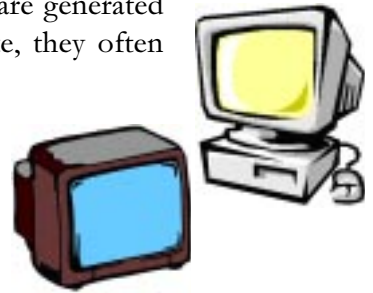
New Grant Program Targets Universal Waste & Mercury Added Products

The State Planning Office (SPO), in conjunction with the Remediation and Waste Management Division of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), will offer a new municipal grants program early next year. The grants will target the recovery and recycling of “universal wastes” and “mercury added products.” Our goal is to rapidly put into place a simple, voluntary management and collections infrastructure that will guarantee safe storage and handling for these products within the existing municipal and regional solid waste and recycling framework.

What are “universal wastes?”

Universal waste is a hazardous waste that is widely generated. Because these wastes are generated by homeowners and businesses that do not typically generate other hazardous waste, they often inappropriately end up in the solid waste system. In Maine these waste items are:

- Certain batteries such as nickel cadmium, and small sealed lead acid batteries,
- Cathode ray tubes as found in computer monitors and TV sets,
- Mercury containing thermostats,
- Non-leaking light ballasts containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls),
- Lamps; fluorescent tubes, sodium high pressure, metal halide, high intensity discharge, neon, mercury vapor.



This list comes from the proposed Universal Waste Rule that goes before the Board of Environmental Protection for adoption on December 21, 2000.

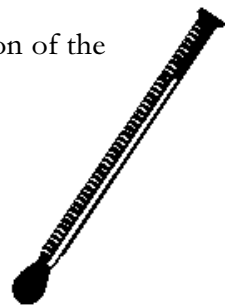
What is the Universal Waste Rule (UWR)?

In simplest terms, the UWR provides guidelines to all Maine citizens, businesses, and public entities, for the management of this new waste category. For the first time ever in Maine, hazardous waste generated by homeowners, small businesses, and public facilities can be managed together. The UWR will accomplish three important goals; the waste products will be recovered and recycled, improper disposal avoided, and money saved by making available less costly storage and shipping alternatives. Upon its adoption, the UWR gives state agencies, communities, and regional associations the green light to work together to put a collection, storage, shipping, and recycling system into place. The **Mercury Added Products and Services Law** provides us with the means and the motive to do so.

What are Mercury Added Products?

The Mercury Products Law (Chapter 779) was passed in the spring of 2000 by the second session of the 119th Legislature. It defined the following list of items as under its control:

- Mercury containing thermostats,
- Mercury fever thermometers,
- Mercury containing scientific and medical devices,
- Mercury containing lamps,
- Mercury containing electrical switches and relays.



As you can see, the UW list and the Mercury Products list overlap with lamps and thermostats appearing on both.

For public solid waste and recycling programs, the new law contains several key provisions.

- As of July 15th 2002, businesses and public entities may not knowingly place a mercury added product in solid waste for disposal in a solid waste disposal facility.
- As of January 1st, 2005, this disposal ban will be extended to all Maine residents, ending the household waste exemption for these products.
- It commits the state to fund and implement an aggressive education, outreach and promotion campaign to end the release of mercury into our environment and to reach all Maine citizens prior to the disposal bans.
- It commits the state to assisting municipalities and regional associations in developing collection programs.
- It commits the state, within available resources, to proceed to develop and implement a capital investment grant program for improvements to municipal transfer stations for the collection mercury containing products and universal wastes.

(cont'd on page 3)

(cont'd from page 2)

- And at a minimum, it commits the state to funding grants to municipalities and schools to redress costs they may incur for managing these wastes from their own facilities in compliance with the disposal ban after July 15, 2002.

How much money is available this year?

SPO and the DEP have approximately \$400,000 to fund the education campaign, the municipal collection and storage infrastructure, and to assist any existing public household hazardous waste programs to expand their programs to include mercury added products and universal wastes.

Who will run the grant program?

The Waste and Recycling Program at the State Planning Office will administer the grants.

Who is eligible?

Municipal and regional solid waste and recycling programs and other public entities.



What do I get for my grant?

While the grants are not “competitive” like previous recycling grant rounds, the award and its amount will be determined by the potential population and or geographic area served, and your ability and willingness to act as a regional host site. Also, the grant may not be a straight dollar award, because under these grants you may request and the state has the option of awarding either: a ready-made storage shed delivered; modification of an existing structure; or, under certain circumstances, new construction. In addition to the storage facility, you will automatically receive; required enrollment in a training program, spill kits, signage, and storage supplies for the different kinds of waste items.



What is the timetable for the grant process?

Once the UWR has been adopted, in January, 2001, SPO will send out letters of invitation and a simple grants application to all municipalities, regional, solid waste and recycling facilities. And once we have a “head count” on potential grant applicants, SPO will issue an RFP for a ready-made storage shed delivered on site. We will proceed as quickly as possible with the follow up bid and award of the shed contract. While we are negotiating that contract, SPO will also issue an RFP for the collection and transportation for, reuse/ recycling of universal wastes and mercury added products from the collection and consolidation centers. We anticipate the vendor or vendors chosen will set up a statewide system. It is hoped that such a service agreement will lower the cost for the state, for small business, and for towns, as the bans come into effect. It is our goal to have the grants awarded, the vendors for the two state contracts chosen, and a substantial amount of storage capacity in place by July 1, 2001.

Will I have to get a special permit or license from the DEP?

Along with the UWR the ME DEP is proposing some straightforward additions to Chapter 402 (Transfer Stations or Storage Sites for Solid Waste). These will provide recycling center and solid waste facility operators with the how to's of; department notification, employee training, storage, what to do if there is a spill or breakage, shipping, and record keeping.

Why should my town or facility bother to take part?

This program is voluntary. The state is obligated by law to cover costs for handling mercury added products generated by town and public school facilities after July, 2002. But public solid waste and recycling programs need to examine the level of service they will be willing to offer small businesses and their residents in their community and what those businesses and citizens will be expecting from them in turn, once the disposal bans are in place. The legislature placed the full disposal ban out into 2005 to allow municipalities time to plan and get ready. These grants are the first step in making those plans. In most towns in Maine, the planning process for the 2002-2003 budget cycle is just 12 months away.

Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050
www.recyclemaine.com

New Waste Management & Recycling Staff Member

Tom Miragliuolo is the newest member of the Waste Management & Recycling Program. A graduate of the University of Alabama, Tom comes to the program from the Department of Transportation. Tom's duties include providing technical assistance to municipalities, performing cost/benefit analyses, and assisting with web site maintenance. Tom can be reached at 207-287-9074 or tom.miragliuolo@state.me.us.

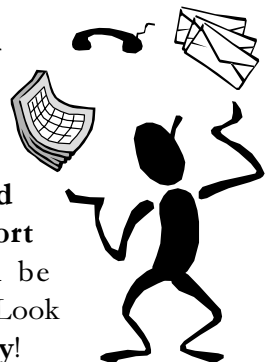
Updated PAYT Report Now Available

One of Tom's first projects after joining the Waste Management & Recycling Program was to update "Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Programs in Maine," a report published by SPO in October of 1998. According to the updated report, the total number of PAYT communities in Maine has risen to 128, up from 64 in 1998. This report will be available soon on SPO's web site at: www.recyclemaine.com. For a hard copy, please contact Tom at the number provided above.



Coming Soon

It's almost that time again! The **2000 Municipal Solid Waste Annual Report Package** will soon be arriving in the mail. Look for it in **early January!**



The **Annual Solid Waste Conference and Recyclathon** will be held at the **Samoset Resort** in **Rockport** on **April 9-10**. For more information, call the MRRA at 207-942-6772.

Earth Day is **April 22**. Contact SPO for suggestions on how you can celebrate!